

Afghan talks resume this month

ISLAMABAD (R) — Peace talks between the Soviet Union and Afghan rebels are likely to resume before the end of the month, rebel leader Burhanuddin Rabbani said Sunday. Speaking at the news conference in Islamabad, he called on the Kremlin to drop its insistence that the rebels should share power with President Najibullah's government. Rabbani was speaking on his return from Saudi Arabia where he met a Soviet team headed by senior Kremlin aide Yuli Vorontsov in the first round of talks Dec. 3 and 4. "We hope that in the second round the Russians will bring specific new proposals," he said. "We don't want it to be like the first round, just general issues." During the first round of talks, the Mujahideen team had demanded war reparations without giving any figures, he said. Rabbani, who holds the revolving chairmanship of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, said the rebels had made clear they would not accept any role in a future broad-based government for Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party. The negotiations had been positive in that the two sides had agreed to continue the process in Pakistan, he said, speaking through an interpreter.

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HCST discusses education expansion

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) met under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday and reviewed its various programmes, including the establishment of an independent national centre for educational research, means to increase the number of students in various specialisations and the progress of work on expanding the national education system.

The meeting discussed preparation of educational textbooks and emphasised the need for speed in the process as well as in drawing up a course of action to reduce dependence on community college graduates for educational specialisations.

The council reviewed a proposal for establishing a specialised university for teacher training and other alternatives with a view to implementing the new education

tional policy.

Also under discussion were recommendations on vocational training and plans to develop vocational training and technological centres, including polytechnic colleges and applied engineering faculties.

The first phase of the 1989-1992 educational development plan will cost approximately \$263 million, out of which \$114 million will be provided locally, while the rest will be provided by the government of Japan, the World Bank and other international partners.

Taking part in Sunday's meeting were Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouran Hindawi, Higher Education Minister Nasrullah Al Assad, representatives for Planning Ministry, the World Bank and HCST members.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Lebanon sends quake aid to Armenia

BEIRUT (R) — An aircraft carrying relief supplies donated by Armenian and Lebanese agencies left Beirut Sunday for quake-hit Soviet Armenia, airport officials said. They said the plane, chartered by a Lebanese Armenian, was carrying 19 tonnes of medical equipment and food for survivors from the earthquake 11 days ago in which more than 55,000 people are feared to have died.

Walesa prepares for talks

WARSAW (R) — The leader of Poland's banned Solidarity union Lech Walesa and more than 100 prominent opposition members met Sunday to prepare a common platform for talks with the communist government on Poland's future. Walesa, who convened the 120 figures from across Poland, urged them to seize the initiative at the talks by proposing new ideas on the country's problems. The meeting, in the cellar at the Catholic Church of God's Mercy, was the latest sign that government-opposition talks were about to take place after months of wrangling over conditions.

Cyprus talks resume today

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders meet Monday for a second round of closed-door talks on reunifying the war-divided island, but officials said there were still wide differences between the rival communities. President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktash, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic, will lay down a wide range of options on issues on which they failed to make progress in the seven-week first round of talks that ended Nov. 7. This procedure was designed to find ways of bridging the differences and provide avenues through which areas of agreement could be reached.

Freed ICRC delegate returns home

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss International Red Cross delegate Peter Winkler returned home from Lebanon Sunday. Winkler, 32, reiterated that his captors never identified themselves and never told him why they kidnapped him in broad daylight in the city of Sidon where he directed operations of the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in South Lebanon. He said he was well treated but that he was "very much afraid." Winkler also said he did not know whether his release might mean that other hostages would be now be freed, too. Winkler was freed last Friday at Sidon, Swiss Foreign Minister René Felber said Saturday night that his abductors tried to tie his release to a lenient sentence for a jailed Lebanese hijacker, Hussein Hariri, but that Switzerland refused any concessions.

Hirohito continues to discharge blood

TOKYO (AP) — Ailing Japanese Emperor Hirohito Sunday discharged a small amount of blood for the fourth consecutive day, the Imperial Household Agency said. Agency spokesman Kenji Mieda told police reporters that 87-year-old emperor discharged blood from his bowels late Saturday and early Sunday, but the amount was "quite small." Meanwhile, police reported a fire early Sunday on the grounds of the Mississippi Imperial Mausoleum in Hachioji, near Tokyo, where Hirohito's father, emperor Taisho, and mother are buried. A police officer who requested anonymity said the fire, believed to be arson, burned trees west of the mausoleum.

U.S. again scales back Gulf operations

BAHRAIN (AP) — The U.S. naval force in the Gulf is further scaling back its operations and will be reduced from 15 to 14 ships just after the new year, according to U.S. military sources. In the latest change of procedure, U.S. warships will "maximize" U.S.-flag vessels in the waterway by radar but may no longer be within quick reach in emergencies. One source said the move, like some earlier ones, reflects a Pentagon judgement that the threat to shipping in the Gulf has lessened since the Iran-Iraq ceasefire went into effect Aug. 20.

Brazil fails to win \$1b Iraq deal

BAGHDAD (AP) — Brazil has failed to secure a \$1 billion contract to supply 100,000 autos and spare parts to Iraq for its fleet of 160,000 vehicles, Western diplomats said Sunday. Brazilian Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Cardoso Elles conducted negotiations with the Iraqis during a visit to Baghdad that began Dec. 16, but could not reach agreement on supply terms, the sources said. Iraqi and Brazilian officials declined comment on the issue. The deal had been stalled earlier because of disagreement over prices of the Volkswagen do Brasil autos.

Fire sweep through Indiana hotel

SOUTH BEND, Indiana (AP) — Fire swept through a residential hotel Sunday, killing at least one person, injuring at least six and forcing the evacuation of 106 residents, authorities said. Twelve people were unaccounted for. The blaze in the four-story Morningside Hotel apparently began on the third floor and quickly spread. One wall collapsed. The downtown hotel has 105 rooms, housing transients and some long-term residents. Robert Ziker, the owner of the 64-year-old hotel, said resident Julia Wood died in his fourth-floor apartment. Of the residents who were unaccounted for, authorities said it was possible they were not in their rooms when the fire broke out.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday holds talks with U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens (Petra photo)

King voices appreciation of U.S. move towards PLO

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. Congress from the state of Utah, and voiced his appreciation of the U.S. administration's decision to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The King expressed hope that the American step would lead to progress towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem through an international peace conference.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's total support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and full backing for the PLO's efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Palestine in a just and comprehensive peace.

The audience was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Rifa'i said the higher committee's meetings aim at building a strong and continued process of bilateral cooperation.

Joint committee ends meetings; Rifa'i, Ramadan pay tribute to bilateral ties

Jordan, Iraq raise annual trade to \$0.8b

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee Sunday concluded a two-day meeting in Baghdad after agreeing on measures to promote bilateral trade and to hold trade fairs in Amman and Baghdad.

Minutes of the deliberations were signed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Both leaders expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions.

Rifa'i said the Iraqi side was responsive to all Jordanian ideas and proposals and through continued efforts both sides overcame all obstacles that impeded bilateral cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Rifa'i said the higher committee's meetings aim at building a strong and continued process of bilateral cooperation.

Ramadan said the meetings were held in a brotherly atmosphere reflecting the strong ties between the two countries.

Earlier Sunday, the Jordanian-Iraqi ministerial committee agreed on raising the volume of exchanged goods between Iraq and Jordan to \$800 million in 1989 and decided to raise the annual quota of the Jordanian and Iraqi trade centres to \$75 million each per annum and to allow the two sides to hold industrial trade fairs in Amman and Baghdad and sell \$2 million worth of products directly to the public. Each coun-

try will be given preferential treatment in import/export operations conducted by either side.

The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and Iraqi Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Mohammad Zubaidi.

Zubaidi said in a statement later that agreement was reached by the two sides on settling all outstanding issues in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein.



Zaid Rifa'i

Earlier, Rifa'i visited the Unknown Soldier's Monument in Baghdad and laid a wreath there. He also visited an exhibition of weapons seized by the Iraqi forces in the Gulf war.

The joint committee held a first round of talks Saturday evening under the co-chairmanship of Rifa'i and Ramadan.

Zubaidi said in a statement that agreement was reached by the two sides on settling all outstanding issues in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein.

The prime minister hailed progress in bilateral cooperation and the great strides taken by Amman and Baghdad to achieve integration in all fields.

Ramadan welcomed the Jordanian delegation to the meetings and said that the higher committee had accomplished an important task and helped present Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation as an example that could be emulated by other states.

Rifa'i and the team that accompanied him to Baghdad for the meetings returned home later Sunday.

3 Palestinians killed, 17 injured amid strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three Palestinians were shot dead and 17 others wounded in clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied territories Sunday, while Israeli peace activists skirted an army blockade to meet with Palestinians in a Palestinian town.

The clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip erupted during a general strike called to protest five Palestinian deaths over the weekend.

Despite the violence, a group of about 40 Israelis sponsored by the Peace Now movement travelled to the West Bank town of Beit Sahour to tell a church filled with 400 Palestinian worshippers that they favoured dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The activists, including left-wing legislator Ran Cohen, reached the town by a back road after the army shut roads into the town, news photographers at the scene said.

"We believe that now there is only one possibility of solution... a solution which includes a Palestinian state of independent state beside the state of Israel," Cohen said during the visit.

The Israeli distributed a statement in Hebrew, English and Arabic that said: "We are happy to be here not as occupiers but as your guest. We accept your right to an independent Palestine and to choose your own leaders and representatives."

Issa Yacoub Massad, a Beit Sahur resident, said protesters in the town agreed not to throw stones during the visit.

Before the Israeli spoke at the church, townspies broke into the Palestinian anthem "Homeland, Homeland." Later, about 200 Palestinian women demonstrated outside chanting slogans and waving a Palestinian flag.

The other victim died at a U.N. clinic in nearby Rafah, according to reports. Two people also were reported wounded in the clash in Shabura, which witnesses said broke out when troops were stoned by protesters.

The other two occurred during eight separate clashes in towns and refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank, hospital officials said. At least three sites of violence, Nablus, Qalqilya, and the Deir Al Balah refugee camp — were put under curfew, reports said.

Among the wounded was a 15-year-old girl from Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza who was reported in critical condition with a bullet wound in the head and transferred to hospital.

Peres offers talks; Shamir plans own coalition; 'autonomy' mooted

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres Sunday offered to open talks with any Palestinian who renounces violence while his political rival, Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, prepared to form a government without Labour.

The Labour Party also presented to the Israeli cabinet a 10-year-old "autonomy" plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres said: "Israel must put the (Arafat) declarations to test" and added that it would take "a couple of months" to see if the Palestinian leader keeps his word.

Peres's future in Israel's government was unclear Sunday, however, as the conservative Likud Party appeared set to form a new coalition that would exclude his Labour Party.

Labour ministers meanwhile discussed the autonomy plan presented by Labour.

Labour ministers presented the unilateral "autonomy" plan to the cabinet. The plan would give Palestinian leaders control over the administration of daily municipal affairs while Israel maintains a military presence in the area.

"In essence we let them run their own affairs while Israel will focus on security and foreign affairs," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katzav, said Labour would be excluded

Kidnappers to 'try' Cools

BEIRUT (R) — A previously unknown group said Sunday it was holding Belgian doctor Jan Cools who disappeared in south Lebanon May 21 this year. The group, calling itself "The Soldiers of Truth," said in a typewritten statement in Arabic it would put him on trial for spying for Western countries and Israel. The statement, delivered to an international news agency, was accompanied by photocopies of Cools' identity card, passport, driving license and draft card. No group had previously claimed responsibility for holding Cools, 32, an aid worker who disappeared shortly after leaving the refugee camp of Rashidiyah near the port of Tyre. The statement said: "After watching his (Cools') suspicious movements and finding undoubtable evidence to the true nature of his activities, our struggle seized and detained him." It said Cools was recruited by Western intelligence agencies and the Israeli Mossad in 1982 and was sent to Lebanon under the cover of a doctor to collect information on the resistance movement fighting Israel. "We are studying the evidence we have to issue the just punishment against the so-called Jan Cools and we will announce our decision later," it said.

(Continued on page 3)

In Abu Dhabi, a top-ranking Palestinian official warned Sunday

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 2)

Alliance leaders open summit in Bahrain today

GCC to build on Iran-Iraq ceasefire, back PLO strategy

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Arab Gulf leaders open their first peacetime summit Monday aiming to build on a fragile Iran-Iraq ceasefire and back Middle East peace moves by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Heads of state from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are meeting without war in the region for the first time since they formed the group in 1981 to boost economic and defense ties.

But the six-member council, comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, fears that fighting between Iran and Iraq could flare up if U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Geneva remain deadlocked.

The talks began in August, five days after a ceasefire ended eight years of fighting, but have made little progress.

"Officially the war has ended, and we are happy for this. But until a peace agreement is signed... dangers of a renewal of the war remain," Sultan Qaboos ibn Sa'id of Oman said in an interview published last Saturday.

The group is expected to seek international efforts to ensure implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 which calls for a troop withdrawal and exchange of prisoners.

Also high on the agenda, officials said, are the fast-moving

diplomatic developments in the Middle East spurred by the declaration of a Palestinian state last month and the year-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Strong backers of the PLO, the GCC countries are expected to reiterate support for the newly-declared state and for convening a Middle East peace conference, the officials said.

GCC ministers have welcomed the PLO's acceptance of U.N. resolutions that implicitly recognise Israel. The PLO move, followed by statements from PLO leader Yasser Arafat, cleared the way for official U.S.-PLO talks last Friday after a 13-year-long Washington ban on such contacts.

Oil ministers from the GCC will meet separately Monday at the luxury hotel summit venue.

The GCC countries hold 40 percent of the world's oil reserves and officials said the ministers would reiterate support for a pact by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut output by some four million barrels per day and boost world oil prices.

Bahraini security forces Sunday cordoned off the hotel and

took up positions on nearby skyscrapers. Helicopters buzzed overhead.

The GCC backed Iraq's war effort and Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been targets of sabotage operations widely blamed on Iranian-backed fundamentalists. Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Tehran last April.

Sultan Qaboos, in an interview published Sunday in the Bahraini daily *Akhbar Al Khaleej*, said he hoped for better ties with Iran now that the fighting had stopped.

"I want there to be a new vision of the GCC on how to deal with Iran when peace is established in the region," he said.

Officials say peace may open new horizons for GCC unity including defence and security ties and progress toward a common market envisaged in a 1982 economic agreement. Implementation of the agreement will be one of the summit's priorities.

The GCC approved a strategy for security cooperation at its last summit in Riyadh, but Sultan Qaboos said there were still obstacles to a full security pact first proposed in 1983.

"In the last meeting Kuwait asked for some time to study the clause on extradition of criminals it had reservations about. Kuwait does not want to extradite, and the GCC states said that either this clause is applied to all states or not at all, and... this is the obstacle," he said.

Little progress seen towards GCC economic unity, page 6



STRENGTH OR BRUTALITY? — An Israeli policeman stands over the head of a frightened Palestinian schoolgirl after she was arrested by Israeli troops in the occupied Jerusalem area. The girl, crying with pain and

anguish, was later forcibly put in a police vehicle and taken to an unidentified location. The policeman is seen with a tear-gas rifle that he folded to reload.

Britain works for peace conference, says Israel should move forward

CAIRO (Agencies) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Walgrave said Sunday that Britain and Egypt were exerting efforts to convene an international peace conference for the Middle East, and urged Israel to enter the peace process.

Walgrave spoke following a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak. His comments were carried by the Middle East News Agency.

"We are presently working on the convention of an international conference," Walgrave said. "We also agreed that it is now necessary for Israel to move towards peace."

Walgrave repeated his government's position on welcoming the U.S. decision to hold official talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The British and Egyptian governments work towards establishing a permanent peace in the region," Walgrave said. He described bilateral relations between London and Cairo as warm and close.

Walgrave later met with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. Following the meeting, Abdul Meguid said that the British visitor's talks in Cairo had included recent developments in the Palestinian issue, the importance of the quick convening of an international peace conference to bring peace to the region, and bilateral relations.

Abdul Meguid said Egypt appreciated all efforts Britain made to bring a peaceful conclusion to the Palestinian cause.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat wants to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand, a senior PLO official was quoted Sunday as saying.

Bassam Abu Sharif, an aide to Arafat, said: "We believe Mrs. Thatcher can play a role in convincing Israeli leaders that

there is no other way forward but to negotiate with the PLO for a comprehensive peace."

"We have already discussed a meeting between Mitterrand and Arafat and we believe the time is right for it now," he told the Sunday Times newspaper.

A British government spokesman said there were no plans for Thatcher to meet Arafat and no request for such a meeting had been received from the PLO.

Last week, Britain upgraded its contacts with the PLO when Walgrave met Abu Sharif.

The Sunday Times said Abu Sharif would meet French officials in Paris Monday to discuss a meeting between Arafat and Mitterrand.

Walgrave said later in Cairo he did not rule out the possibility of talks between British leaders and Arafat.

Asked whether Arafat might hold talks in London, Walgrave said Britain would seek further meetings as needed to advance Middle East peace efforts.

"I think in the first instance it is my job to conduct relations with the PLO and perhaps Abu Sharif in particular... but nothing is excluded," he said.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran invites applications for parties

NICOSIA (R) — Iran set a three-month deadline Sunday for the formation of political parties operating in line with Islamic and Iranian values. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the Interior Ministry as saying groups now functioning outside the law must apply for official recognition by the end of the Iranian year March 20, 1989. Iran now has no officially recognised parties. The Communist Tudeh Party was outlawed in 1983 and vigorously suppressed by Iran's fundamentalist leaders. Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said Dec. 14 that Iran would permit political parties but warned would-be politicians to learn from the bitter experience of the past. Activists were told they could establish parties as long as they did not plot against Iran or create obstacles. The constitution stipulates that political parties can operate freely as long as they respect certain principles, including Iran's independence, national unity and Islamic standards.

Oman, S. Yemen agree on border points

BAHRAIN (R) — Oman and South Yemen have agreed on almost all the disputed points on their border, Sultan Qaboos ibn Sa'id of Oman said in an interview published Sunday. "We have solved many of these disputes and only very few limited points remain," he told Bahrain's *Akhbar Al Khaleej* newspaper. "There must not be any obstacle or delay in the way of normal ties." The sultan and President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas agreed in October to mark the border and cooperate to end 20 years of hostility and clashes between Muscat and Aden. "We think ties are normal though there are a few border points we have not agreed upon," Sultan Qaboos added. The two states agreed to establish full diplomatic relations in 1983 after their fight triggered by South Yemen's support in the 1970s for left-wing insurgents in Oman's southern Dhofar province.

U.S. official holds talks in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Kenneth Brown is in Khartoum for talks with Sudanese officials on how the United States can help boost peace in war-torn southern Sudan and bring relief to its starving people. Brown met Saturday with Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Salih and reviewed with him the status of peace talks between the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government, as well as the role the United States can play in boosting peace and stability in the country, the official Sudan News Agency said. SINA said Brown affirmed the United States' keenness to help Sudan overcome the current difficulties it faces in bringing relief to thousands of southerners who fled from their homes because of the ongoing fighting. It said Brown also expressed hope that the current peace efforts in Sudan would succeed. The present peace momentum started after one of the government's coalition party members, the Democratic Unionist Party, unilaterally signed a peace agreement with the SPLA Nov. 16. It is stalled after the government refused to officially endorse all its points, but said it was willing to convene all the warring parties in a constitutional peace conference Dec. 31 in Khartoum. A ministerial delegation which was scheduled to go to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, more than 10 days ago to relay this decision to the SPLA, still has not departed.

Two SLA militiamen killed

BEIRUT (AP) — Two militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were killed Sunday following an attack against its radio station, the SLA reported. Islamic Resistance, a Lebanese resistance group claimed responsibility for the attack. It said its guerrillas infiltrated into Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon and planted three bombs around the premises of the SLA's Voice of Hope radio station. "Then they fired two rockets at the radio station before returning safely to the north," said a spokesman for the group. A statement released earlier by Islamic Resistance said the guerrillas "blew up" the radio station, inflicting "heavy losses on the (pro-Israeli) agents." The SLA, in its midday newscast over the Voice of Hope radio said the two militiamen were killed as they were defusing one of the bombs. It denied that the station had been damaged. The radio station is located in the town of Marjayoun.

Sudan peace remains paper commitment

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

who heads the co-ruling Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), signed the pact in Addis Ababa.

The accord proposes a ceasefire, the lifting of a state of emergency and a freeze on new Islamic laws before a constitutional conference to decide the country's future starts Dec. 31.

If enforced, the agreement will end five years of war in south Sudan which, according to unofficial estimates, may have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 in the south to end what it sees as the domination of the north.

More than half of the south's estimated six million inhabitants flee their homes, seeking food and security elsewhere in Sudan or in neighbouring Ethiopia. Many thousands have died on route or on arrival.

An end to the war would help ease the country's economic crisis, enabling the government to cut defence spending, to tackle mounting work stoppages and to

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government if it is adopted and new Islamic laws passed.

The diplomats said Mahdi delayed the issue when he asked parliament Wednesday to vote on convening the constitutional conference Dec. 31 and give him a mandate to take the necessary steps to do so. The SPLA demand is that governments and parliament approve the agreement, not just vote on whether to convene the conference.

The parliamentary vote on the conference is due to be taken Monday but the diplomats said it might be weeks before this happens.

Parliament, elected in 1986 for a four-year term, has in recent months been virtually inactive because of a lack of a quorum.

Legislators complain that their role has been made marginal by political leaders and there have been calls for parliament's disassembly to make way for the constitutional conference.

Mahdi said earlier this week there was still enough time to hold the conference if there was goodwill and seriousness.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION		19:45	Varieties
PROGRAMME ONE		20:00	News in Arabic
		20:30	George Burns
		21:10	Lizzie's pictures
		22:00	News in English
		22:20	Late Night Mystery Theatre "House of Evil"
		05:03	Fajr (Sunrise) Dua
		06:26	Dhuhr
		11:33	

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CABINET APPROVES ENVOY TO SOMALIA: The Cabinet Sunday approved the appointment of Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Somalia and endorsed the appointment of Izzat Dajani as the honorary consul of Seychelles in Jordan. (Petra)

CABINET ENDORSES LOAN AGREEMENT: The Cabinet Sunday endorsed a loan agreement whereby the government of Japan will grant JD 51.5 million for financing a number of projects. The Cabinet also endorsed a JD 15.5 million loan agreement with the Japanese government. The loan will be used for the irrigation projects in the Jordan Valley. (Petra)

SPECIAL CONCERT: Nazik Hariri Special Education Centre Sunday held a special concert to mark the end of the first semester. The concert included artistic performances and dances by handicapped students from all centres for the handicapped. (Petra)

HIGHER TOURISM COUNCIL TO MEET: The Higher Tourism Council holds a meeting Monday to discuss a number of issues on its agenda and to draw up a comprehensive perception for developing tourism in Jordan. The council consists of ministers of finance, health, planning, interior, culture and national heritage, industry and trade and tourism, in addition to the executive director of the Royal Jordanian, director general of the Social Security Corporation, president of Aqaba Region Authority, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and president of the Travel and Tourist Agents Association, and director general of the Jordan Express Travel and Tourism. (Petra)

SOVIET AIDE THANKS JORDAN: President of the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Society voiced appreciation to the Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRCS) for its readiness to assist in the relief operations of the victims of the earthquake which has recently hit the Soviet Armenian Republic. In a cable to the president of the Jordan Red Crescent Society, the Soviet official thanked Jordan and said his society needed specific kinds of medicine which JRCS will be shipping soon. (Petra)

SEWERAGE PROJECTS IN BALQA: The Water Authority of Jordan carried out sewerage projects and water networks in Balqa Governorate, worth JD 5,711,000 during this year, including 140,000 metres of sewerage network at a cost of JD 5,164,000. (Petra)

JERASH PREPARES TO FIGHT LOCUSTS: Jerash district governor Sunday chaired a meeting held at Jerash chamber of commerce, during which he discussed with the department directors and village council chairman the necessary steps for fighting desert locusts in case they arrive in the district. The meeting formed special committees for fighting locusts in the various municipalities. (Petra)

HASHISH TRAFFICKER JAILED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict, sentencing Nizar Mahmoud Issa to two years in prison and a fine of JD 500 after finding him guilty of trafficking hashish. (Petra)

LUFTHANSA GETS NEW CHIEF: Lufthansa has appointed Mr. Gero Von Goetz as new manager of its office in Amman succeeding Mr. Karim Joury to the post. The airline's Middle East Regional Director Gerd Meierhoefel hosted a reception at the Royal Automobile Club in Amman to welcome the new manager and bid farewell to Mr. Joury who has worked for Lufthansa for 30 years. Joury was instrumental over the past three decades in promoting tourism between Germany and Jordan, thus contributing to further cementing bilateral ties. Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni was among the guests at the reception party. (J.T.)

AMERICAN EXPERT IN AMMAN: Dr. Marina Tolmacheva, a member of the history department at Washington State University, has arrived in Amman to serve as an international consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture. She will provide assistance on a research project currently being planned by a special committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in connection with the approaching 50th anniversary of the ministry. Dr. Tolmacheva's expertise includes historical publications in international academic press and curriculum development in the field of Middle East studies. (J.T.)

SAUDI TEAM IN AMMAN: A Saudi delegation headed by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasil Saturday arrives on a several day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on cooperation in the Islamic issues. (Petra)

CELEBRATIONS IN KUWAIT: Noot Al Hussein Foundation takes part in the silver jubilee celebrations of the Kuwaiti Social and Cultural Association for Women, due to take place in Kuwait Monday. (Petra)

FAST MAIL SERVICE TO HONG KONG: Director General of the Post and Postal Saving Corporation Ghazi Rifai said Sunday that the corporation will introduce the fast mail delivery service to Hong Kong, thus bringing to 24 the number of countries where this service is applied. (Petra)

15M ECU LOAN: The Cabinet has approved two loan agreements, one for 15 million European Currency Units (ECU) to be granted to the Jordan Electricity Power Company, and another agreement for 1 million ECU to finance the feasibility study of Al Waleh and Nakhlah dams. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Iraqi artist Noha Al Radi at Alia Gallery Hall.
- An exhibition of His Majesty King Hussein's photos marking his 53rd birthday besides exhibiting books showing development in the Kingdom under King Hussein, at Deir Abu Sa'ida.
- Jordanian fine arts exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition displaying 'Wolfe' (Otto Wolfgang Schultze) photographic works at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- An exhibition on Lord Byron, the English poet, surveying his life and work, at the British Council.
- An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- Arabic play for children entitled "Al Kimz" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.
- Children's play "Gingerbread Man" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

DIALOGUE

- A Worldnet dialogue with Dr. Farouk Al Baz of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the use of satellite technology to locate groundwater resources, at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.

FILM

- A French film entitled "L'Amour Dernier" (Year-end) in Marienbad) at the French Cinema — 8:00 p.m.



King receives credentials

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received the credentials of three new ambassadors to Jordan at a ceremony held at the Royal Court. The new ambassadors were Mohammad Jasem Ali of the United Arab Emirates, Mubarak Ibn Naser Al Kawari of Qatar and Francesco de Curten of Italy. The presentation ceremony was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Taher Al Massri. (Petra photos)



Jordan marks Arab Police Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Sunday celebrated Arab Police Day with a ceremony held at the Traffic Department in Amman where a number of former police officers and employees at a number of government departments and the press were honoured for their services in helping the police carry out their duty.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali opened the ceremony with a speech in which he referred to the essential role played by police forces in the Arab World to ensure stability and security for the Arab community.

Another speaker was Mohammad Dabbas, president of the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, who said security for citizens was a major factor for stability and progress.

Dabbas paid tribute to the police forces of the Arab World whose efforts, he said, "should be backed by all sectors of the public."

Another speaker at the cere-



Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali Sunday presents an award to a citizen in recognition of her services to the PSD (Petra photo)

More relief aid, equipment and specialists fly to Sudan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A plane load of relief supplies and medical equipment including an integrated unit to help carry out open heart surgery left Amman Sunday for Sudan as a gift from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Sudanese Military Medical Services.

Health Minister Zaid Hameez saw off a team of physicians and specialists who travelled aboard the craft.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the team represented the 18th Jordanian medical mission comprising of nine doctors and five technicians and male nurses with medical and surgical equipment.

The team will install medical equipment and work at the Kass Hospital, which has been under the supervision of successive Jordanian medical teams over the past three years.

Jordan, Petra said, regularly sends teams to work at the Kass Hospital on two-month shifts.

On board the same plane went a Jordanian relief team which will travel to Karimeh in the northern regions of Sudan. Petra said that the team, supplied with equipment, was set up by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People and the Jordan Medical Association (JMA).

The team groups doctors, surgeons and specialists from the JMA and the Ministry of Health to help Sudan combat the spread of malaria.

According to Petra, the team is carrying various medical equipment and a large shipment of medicine and drugs to fight barbary.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who serves as rapporteur for the committee and representatives of the Ministry of Health and the JMA, were present at the airport

to bid farewell to the mission. Jordan has sent tonnes of relief and medical supplies and equipment to Sudan which had been exposed to drought and famine, to assist in relieving the victims and provide medical care.

Jordanian missions have been constantly sent to the stricken nation since a visit to the affected regions by Crown Prince Hassan who ordered the organisation of the relief operations.

Youth team leaves for Sudan

According to Petra, another team representing the Amman-based Arab Youth Forum left for Sudan Sunday to discuss the question of organising an Arab youth meeting in February 1989.

The meeting aims to set up a pan-Arab youth camp in Sudan to help offer voluntary assistance to areas affected by drought and famine especially in the areas of maintenance and farming.

Young Armenian men, students and school pupils cleared rubble as authorities pressed on with the evacuation of women and children threatened by disease and cold. At least 40,000 people have been transported out of the region.

French relief workers and their dogs arrived back in Paris Sunday after digging out 13 people from Lemnakin and Spitak.

An official of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, George Reid, urged foreign relief groups Saturday to stop sending workers and equipment to Armenia, saying large vehicles were clogging roads in areas near the Turkish border.

"A substantially new situation is taking shape. It opens up the possibility of a real breakthrough in the cause of settling the Middle East conflict and convening an international Middle East peace conference to help achieve this," it said.

The Palestinian leadership has already offered the maximum platform and any more offers would endanger the Palestinian national unity, which along with the intifada are our only weapons."

Soviet welcome

The Soviet Union has welcomed the U.S.-PLO contacts, saying they offer a possible breakthrough in the Middle East.

A Foreign Ministry statement described Reagan's declared willingness to talk to the PLO as "a positive step."

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The statement urged Israel to reassess its attitude and "upon abandoning stereotypes to take the path of a joint search for constructive solutions."

Soviet Red Cross officials have said they need specialised items such as artificial kidney machines rather than more foreign doctors. But Reid said relief workers were being overwhelmed by planeloads of medical equipment.

Bilbeisi returns from Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation headed by Mu'taz Bilbeisi, secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan Sunday returned home after taking part in an international conference on the purification of wastewater, which was concluded in Cairo Saturday.

The Jordanian delegation presented four working papers on the Jordanian experience in this field, including a pilot project on the recycling of purified wastewater.

Bilbeisi said in an arrival statement that he discussed with Egyptian minister of agriculture and irrigation and other officials scopes of cooperation in the field of irrigation.

Jordan again appeals to world organisations to help drive off locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — For the second time this month Jordan has issued an appeal to world organisations, the United Nations and friendly nations to provide assistance to help drive off and eliminate desert locusts which invaded the country from neighbouring regions.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud made the appeal Sunday at a meeting with representatives of foreign embassies, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the West German Development Agency, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Islamic Bank.

of more equipment and pesticides to combat the dangerous insects, Hmoud told the envoys at the meeting.

The minister appealed for international assistance since, he said, the area will be exposed to locust invasions over the coming four years, in accordance with FAO estimates.

The minister briefed the meeting on Jordan's measures to deal with the situation but, he said, the ground teams face shortages of equipment and pesticides, and Jordan has only one aircraft properly equipped for the task.

Hmoud announced that the Ministry of Agriculture will now establish a specialised department to take charge of the fight against locusts and to coordinate its operations with the other concerned departments.

On Dec. 11, Hmoud issued an

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Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Sunday discusses more aid to fight the locust swarms (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Meeting urges proper guidance, supervision in vocational training

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day symposium in guidance and supervision of vocational training in the Arab World opened here Sunday, with delegates hearing appeals for stepped up efforts to link training and education to the actual needs of the Arab community.

"Lack of proper guidance in vocational training in Arab countries has led to the creation of unemployment problems in the Arab region," according to Dr. Abdullah Barbanach, who represented the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the opening session.

Barbanach underlined the importance of new methods to deal with unemployment and other labour-related problems since, he said, traditional methods "proved to be a failure."

The meetings were opened by Dr. Izzat Jaradat who is director of planning, development and educational research at the Ministry of Education, which organised the meeting in cooperation with UNESCO.

"The Ministry of Education has laid down a comprehensive plan

for developing the nation's educational system between 1988 and 1998 in implementation of resolutions adopted by the first national educational conference held here last year," Jaradat told the meeting, attended by delegates from four Arab states.

Last year's conference, he said, laid stress to the importance of guidance and supervision in vocational training especially in the compulsory and secondary education stages.

Delegates from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Iraq, in addition to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), will review working papers dealing with guidance and supervision of vocational training in the Arab World, and will look into means of updating the skills and performance of instructors of various trades.

Committee for combatting crime to meet next June

AMMAN (Petra) — The higher committee for combatting crime announced Saturday that a specialised symposium on the fight against crime and the criminals would be held in June 1989 and that a special committee has been formed to prepare the ground for that meeting.

The announcement was made following a committee meeting at the Public Security Department (PSD) where its members endorsed the topics and deliberations of the subcommittees.

On the committee are prominent public figures offering voluntary service in the fight against crime, in support of PSD operations.

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Beware of sabotage

THERE is a genuine fear among Palestinians, including the PLO leadership, that Israel is determined to escalate its iron fist policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to increase the number of Palestinian casualties there in order to force the Palestinian people to respond by the use of weapons. The aim of course would be to derail the on-going dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO by pleading the false argument that the PLO has not matched its verbal rejection of terrorism by deeds.

There is a limit to any people's patience and self-control. As Rabin and like-minded Israeli leaders persist in their policies to deliberately push the Palestinian patience to the brink of despair and beyond the limit of normal human endurance, there will come a time when the Palestinian self-control in the face of Israel's deliberate escalation of its policies to suppress the intifada will be exhausted.

The U.S. is called upon to take notice of the Israeli tactics and start asking of Israel what it has been asking the Palestinian side all along to do. One would presume that it has already dawned on Washington that Tel Aviv is bent on sabotaging the American-Palestinian talks even at their embryonic phase with a view to precluding their development and subsequent fruition. The murdering of seven Palestinians in the last 48 hours by Israeli occupation forces, acting upon the clear instructions of General Rabin, is the proper occasion for the U.S. to make their voices heard against this kind of Israeli atrocities. Israel must be reminded by Washington that self-defence is a phenomenon well established in the civilised world and that the Palestinians may not be denied such a right forever for fear that its exercise might be confused with terrorism. If Israel is determined to transform the intifada into an armed rebellion it will have to blame no one but itself for any such deterioration of the situation. Should this be the case, Israel must be served with notice before hand that it will have to bear responsibility for any such deterioration and no friend or ally of Israel would come to its rescue by calling the exercise of self-defence by the Palestinian an act of terrorism.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

THE new round of meetings in Baghdad by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee constituted the topic for Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday. It said that the meetings come at a time when numerous positive elements in the collective Arab stand and action are emerging, and when the Jordanian and Iraqi leadership areconcerting efforts to bolster the Arab Nation's stance at the international level. The meetings come in the wake of a new phase of major and positive developments in the Palestinian issue, and follow an end to the Gulf conflict and the clear orientation towards peace in both areas, the paper noted. The talks demonstrate the two countries' determination to bolster further their bilateral cooperation as a means of enhancing pan-Arab solidarity, the paper continued. It said that Jordan which had supported Iraq in its drive to repel aggression, is maintaining its efforts in the process of development, seeking more and greater degrees of economic, industrial and agricultural cooperation with its sister Arab states in a manner that would ensure a solid front in the face of any future challenges.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, columnist Abdul Rahim Omar daily on Sunday. It said that the meetings come at a time when numerous positive elements in the collective Arab stand and action are emerging, and when the Jordanian and Iraqi leadership areconcerting efforts to bolster the Arab Nation's stance at the international level. The meetings come in the wake of a new phase of major and positive developments in the Palestinian issue, and follow an end to the Gulf conflict and the clear orientation towards peace in both areas, the paper noted. The talks demonstrate the two countries' determination to bolster further their bilateral cooperation as a means of enhancing pan-Arab solidarity, the paper continued. It said that Jordan which had supported Iraq in its drive to repel aggression, is maintaining its efforts in the process of development, seeking more and greater degrees of economic, industrial and agricultural cooperation with its sister Arab states in a manner that would ensure a solid front in the face of any future challenges.

Al Dastour daily wrote on Israel's hideous crimes committed against the people of Nablus in the wake of favourable developments for the Palestinian cause in the international arena. The Israelis went hysterical and committed their crimes against the innocent civilians in Nablus, thus taking revenge for the world community's decision to back the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, the paper noted. The only Israeli reply to such favourable development was an escalation of repression against the Arab people of Palestine, and further killings and more bloodshed, the paper added. It said that Israel, appalled at the idea of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, is now seeking all pretexts for committing crimes and stepping up their repression in Palestine. The paper called on the world community which backed the Palestinians to exert pressure on the Zionist leaders to stop their atrocities and listen to reason.

Sawt Al Shabab daily also tackled the same subject noting that Israel is now facing total isolation from the rest of the world community following Washington's decision to open a dialogue with the PLO. The American decision, the paper said, has backed the world community's support for the Palestinians and their legitimate rights, but has at the same time leashed Israel's wrath on the Palestinian people, the paper noted. It said that the past week's massacres in Nablus committed by the Zionists proves to the whole world that the Zionist state is totally oriented against peace.

Palestinian peace offensive panics Israel

THE international community may have heard the last word from Shamir, Sharon and like-minded Israelis on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's historic speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva last Tuesday and the subsequent decision of the U.S. to engage the PLO in a dialogue, but it certainly did not receive yet the final verdict of the Israeli body politic on last week's historic peace overtures from the Palestine side.

There is no doubt that the Israeli political psyche was ill-prepared to hear the kind of words that the PLO leadership has been uttering in the past few weeks, especially in the wake of the Palestine National Council's Algiers meeting in November when the Palestinian side made the boldest ever gesture for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Israeli leadership has been betting all along that the Palestinian side would never dare accept the Israeli-American terms for peace in the Middle East, namely, the unequivocal acceptance of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, acceptance of Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism in all its forms. The Israeli overall strategy in the Middle East has been predicated on the proposition that the Arab side would never reconcile itself with such difficult "conditions" and accordingly Israel would be able to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab territories ad infinitum and consolidate its grip on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Part of this

Israeli strategy was hinged on the premise that Israeli military might and the enjoyment of military superiority over the Arab armies would continue for decades. The deployment of nuclear weapons and sophisticated delivery systems were meant to insure Israeli military and technological superiority over the Arabs for one or two generations at least.

Thus the recent all-out peace assault by the Arab side threatens, the Israeli fear, to accomplish for the Arab side what their military posture has failed to do till now. That is essentially what caused the biggest shock to the established Israeli strategy and has left the Israeli political forces in disarray. This shock treatment dealt to the Israelis by the Arab side has yet to run its course. In due course it is bound to undermine the basic tenets of Israeli perspectives towards the Arab side including the Palestinian dimension of it and when it does finally sink in properly and fully into the Israeli psyche, one would expect the ushering of an entirely new environment in the Middle East where the Arab transformation of attitudes would be matched by an Israeli metaphor of its fossilised state of mind and the removal of the last psychological barrier to durable and just peace between Arabs and Israelis.

There are already voices within Israel, albeit faint and scattered, which call for a genuine dialogue with the Arab side

including the Palestinian side and the beginning of negotiations that would lead to Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories. By and large such voices are silent and ineffectual at the moment. Such forces are projected to multiply as they continue to mobilise additional segments of the Israeli body politic that remained sceptic thus far on the probabilities of peace in the Middle East. In this context it is indeed unfortunate that the Palestinian leap forward for peace did not occur on the eve of the Israeli national elections last month. By any account, have they occurred earlier the Palestinian peace overtures were bound to have affected the outcome of the Israeli elections in the direction of peace. Now the whole world must wait for the next Israeli election to gauge fully the impact of the Arab peace offers on the Israeli voters. Judging by the looks of it, it would not be long before the Israelis would have their next national election. Whether they will now have a broadly based Likud-Labour government or a limited Likud-right wing parties government, it is destined to collapse in a relatively short time. The Israelis have before them now an entirely new ball game and they would insist on having an opportunity to record their judgment on it by ballot. Till that time arrives, the international community including the Arab World must hold their final word on the Israeli reaction to the latest Arab peace overtures.

By Waleed Sadi

Pluralism vs. particularism

The following are major excerpts of an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made to the fifth Muslim consultation on peace and justice held in Chambesy, Switzerland, between Dec. 12-15, 1988.

WE have been effective in pursuing "altruism" nurtured by a sense of mutual interest and recognition of human dignity and worth." We have, in effect, advocated pluralism and avoided particularism. As a Hashemite descendant of the leader of the Arab renaissance movement I firmly believe in the concept of an Arab national melting pot. Within this concept there are no Christian Arabs or Arabic-speaking Christians but Arabs who are Christian. Correspondingly, there are Arabs who are believers in the Muslim faith and, in ideal circumstances, there are also Arabs who are believers in the Jewish faith.

I make these remarks not to provoke or to assume, but out of a deep sense and concern that of the many factors that underlie our divisions the most worrisome is our identity crisis. In the words of Benjamin Kedar "... when a writer seriously posits a 'trans-historical relationship' between the offer of ordeal supposedly made by Francis of Assisi to the Muslims near Damietta, and that of our Prophet Mohammad to the Christians of Najdran, one can only shrug one's shoulders. When another historian characterises the views of the Summa Halensis on Jews and pagans as 'a stray streak of medieval Christian theology of which one ought to be deeply ashamed.' today ... the cards are on the table, the reader knows exactly where the author stands, and no misunderstanding can arise."

Or can it? Of the New Testament injunctions deplored violence we learn: "He who shall take up the sword, will perish by it." We avoid the discussion of hot issues because we fear, and justifiably so, that we shall exacerbate still further our turbulent history with present day attitudes and emotions. We therefore prefer the moral high-ground to the violence and constituencies who expect us to act and react within certain constraints.

Franklin Roosevelt stated that the "motto of war is: let the strong survive, let the weak die." The motto of peace is: "let the strong help the weak to survive." Though the former president was speaking of nations, in our identity crisis I do not know how each one of us would identify him or herself as of the strong or the weak. Is our ability to contribute thought irrevocably bound up in political rhetoric tenet when speaking of peace with justice that we fail to hazard a definition of the psychological context of the peace we seek? Where is our peace of mind? And more significantly, how will future generations vindicate our absence of will?

In defining the struggle against apartheid a contemporary writer has stated: "Along with the campaigns for justice and peace, along with the political and religious messages sent to the rulers and governors of the land, there is another task — that of overcoming barriers which have grown up as a result of the political system of apartheid imposed upon the people."

There are also the religious fundamentalists who argue that their view is the only view, their path the only path, their faith the best faith, who seek to convert rather than to collaborate, who have no desire for understanding and shared experiences, but merely want us all to be the same, or otherwise we cannot be part of the full human race.

The status of Jerusalem, a topic which has been discussed in this colloquy, has been regarded as so intractable that its resolution should not be addressed until

of the Holy City is an awesome responsibility, the fulfilment of which would find difficulty to survive close scrutiny under any historical tenure. It is not a question of "right against wrong" but one of "right against right."

My study on Jerusalem of October 1979 took a first step towards clarification of the background on questions of sovereignty, as well as municipal rights and control of the Holy Places. It is the hope of those associated with this initiative that objectivity should be maintained throughout. I have borne in mind "that Truth often suffers more by the hear of its defenders, than from

"There are also the religious fundamentalists who argue that their view is the only view, their path the only path, their faith the best faith, who seek to convert rather than to collaborate, who have no desire for understanding and shared experiences, but merely want us all to be the same, or otherwise we cannot be part of the full human race."

resolutions based upon sound and just promises but without enforcement, cannot be retrieved."

A fresh approach to the problem of Jerusalem is interminably linked with the religious claims and counter-claims of the adherents of the three monotheistic religions of the Holy Land: Jerusalem is, of course, equally sacred to the followers of the three faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. To the Jews, Jerusalem provides a source of their collective identity. It is the place in which Abraham is prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac, where David and Solomon set their domain, and where the first temple stands. To the Christians it is the city in which Jesus proselytized and suffered death on the cross, where he was buried, and where he rose again. To the Muslims it is the place where the Prophet Mohammad rode out from one night into Heaven. Hence, the Dome of the Rock was erected on the spot. Jerusalem also served as the first Qibla to which Muslims turned for prayers before the Kaaba in Mecca.

As His Holiness Pope John Paul II stated before the College of Cardinals in October 1987: "Jerusalem is the city whose destinies are mysterious and unique, in which there is a convergence of a pluralism and historical and religious rights, and a solution touching Jerusalem must take account of the exigencies of the special character of the city, unique in all the world, and of the rights and legitimate aspirations of those belonging to the three monotheistic religions of the Holy Land."

The once inescapable fact about Jerusalem is that despite different doctrines and historical perspective of each faith they all accord it a religious significance peculiar to each of the three faiths. The authenticity and the legitimacy of the various claimants, notwithstanding their claims, are at one in one unique respect, they all respect the claims of others. As Sally and Thomas Mallison expressed it: "In this fundamental sense the religious claims are shared."

Acknowledgement of the religious claims does not entail political control or impinge on the question of sovereignty. The demand for religious rights may properly seek and receive recognition and protection from the law which is applied in the Holy City, but political control and sovereignty cannot be decided on the basis of religious claims. History may assist in understanding the genesis and the complexity of these claims but it cannot determine the national identity of the city. I would be the first to recognise that the custodianship

Jerusalem controversy can be content with the rehearsal of past grievances and current legal claims to territorial sovereignty. Solution by resort to armed conflict has shown that military success produces, for the victor, insecurity and a mounting climate of hostility reaction from the community of States. The overriding needs inherent in international interdependency may achieve more for the peace and well-being of the Middle East than the contesting claims of State sovereignty, the recital of grievances and the obdurate preservation of the sad realities of today.

In the spirit of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, which I have had the honour to co-chair, I wish to end with this closing remark: The task of building a consensus around an ethic of human solidarity is a long-term proposition. The key is to engage individuals in collective action at all levels: to bring the needy to see themselves as individuals whose primary purpose is self-sufficiency; and to bring to those in position to help, the understanding that true self-realisation involves the alleviation of other's suffering.

One family's struggle shows why the intifada burns on

By Scott MacLeod and Jamil Hamad

DECEMBER 1987 to December 1988, a heavy toll: 318 Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers, eleven Israelis dead, more than 7,000 Palestinians injured, 15,000 arrested, 12,000 jailed and 34 deported.

For the cause, the sons of Palestine are ready to die. That simple but powerful fact keeps the intifada going strong a year after it erupted in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Khaled Theilab, 14, who worked in a candy factory to help feed his family when he was not throwing stones at Israeli patrols, became one of the most recent Palestinian martyrs on Oct. 18, when a plastic bullet fired by an Israeli soldier in the West Bank city of Nablus killed him. His parents and nine siblings are grieving but are no less determined to fight on against Israel's occupation of their land.

The father

Abdul Wahhab Theilab, 58, is a generation removed from the young men who started the re-

volt, and did not think like them when the uprising erupted. His political sensibilities, like those of other older men in Nablus, had dulled after 21 years of occupation. An auto mechanic, he worked hard to keep his large family in their 400-year-old two-room ancestral home in the Cashab of Nablus. He lived for his children, hoping they would be educated enough someday to become doctors and teachers. The politics intruded into his quiet life and, given the frequent general strikes called by intifada leaders, he decided to quit his job in Israel. The \$130 a month he now earns as a guard at a religious school is not nearly enough to provide even modest comfort. "Financially," says Abu Ali, as he is called, "I am tired."

In some ways, he wishes he could turn back the clock to before last December, but he has accepted the violent politicisation of his life through a combination of religious faith and nationalism.

Despite his grief, he speaks with pride of Khaled's martyrdom. "Our contribution to the intifada," he says, "has moved the Palestinian cause forward."

The mother

Fryal, 41, betrays the strain of trying to run a home during a year of anguish. She still oversees her large household with a firm hand, although providing the daily necessities is no longer a simple task. She has drawn up a stringent budget that allocates her husband's paycheck entirely for groceries and the children's clothes and medicine. Amid shortages and strikes, the simple act of buying food has turned into a time-consuming, frustrating chore. Meat is rarely served at her table; even chicken or frozen fish appears no more than once a week.

Much of the time Fryal is terrified that Israeli soldiers will break into the apartment and take her men away for interrogation. Remembering such night-time incidents, she blinks back tears. "I start bleeding inside when I see my husband humiliated and my sons beaten." Yet she does not attempt to dissuade her sons from active involvement in the uprising. Opening a photo album, she stares at the face of the Khaled she remembers as a "very quiet boy, obedient and very sensitive." In the next breath she proudly praises him as a "Palestinian nationalist."

A son

Adel, 19, is a veteran of the streets. At 16 he joined the Shabiba, a PLO-affiliated youth group, and later he led a protest strike and was jailed twice. When the intifada caught fire, he moved to the front line of the shabiba, the young militants who keep the rebellion alight. Last winter the Israeli authorities threatened to demolish his family's home if he did not turn himself in. He complied and spent 8½ months under administrative detention. At one point, he and two of his brothers shared a tent in the harsh desert camp at Ketzirat.

Hard-line politics has become

Stone-throwers triumph

MANY of us did not realise the importance of American decisions in regard to the Palestine problem until we saw our reactions to the outgoing U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's announcement that the U.S. will hold direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

We literally jumped with joy, laughed (and this time with happiness), telephoned friends in the earliest hours of the morning to be the first to break the good news, and even made future plans to a land that has become a dream for most of us.

I raise my hat to the long-awaited and wise decision taken by those in the White House. The U.S.'s realisation that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians certainly came as a surprise to many people after America's long, cautious, stubborn and blind support of Israeli desires.

After all the American decisions made concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict during the Reagan administration era, people here could not expect such a positive decision to erupt so suddenly. To the majority of Palestinians and Arabs, the announcement came as a very happy surprise. Hope for convenient peace for Palestinians and Arabs alike also erupted as fast as the American announcement.

But, as expected, the Israelis were more furious than ever. Five people killed and 20 injured in one day and in one city, Nablus, is only one price paid, as usual by Palestinians. And now that the Americans have shown positive signs, we can only hope that they continue to do so by pressuring Shamir, Rabin and the rest of the Israelis to show some form of human qualities towards the Palestinian uprising — an uprising that will obviously continue until the people live freely on their soil.

I raise my hat to all those who have helped the Palestinian cause in the past year, because certainly no one has provided a fraction of such support in the last 40 years.

But most of all I raise my hat to the people, and especially to the children of Palestine who have made it possible for the leaders of the world to realise that there must be an end to their suffering under Israeli occupation.

Let's face it. With their stones, these kids were heard all over the world. If it weren't for their courageous outcry, life would go on as usual outside the occupied territories, as if there was no foreign occupation, no major conflict, no rights for Palestinians to live peacefully on their land.

Sana Aliyah



In Cairo, mother of the world, children work to survive

By Jeffrey Bartholet
Reuter

CAIRO — Tough, cynical and street-wise, teenager Sayed Mohammad Sayed is a graduate of Egypt's growing class of more than one million workers under 12 years old.

Sayed's playground was a maze of dirt pathways near a leather tannery in Cairo's Izbrit Abu Wafa slum, where he has been working full-time since he was nine. He is now 17.

"The worst thing is when I have to carry the skins upstairs, because the smell is very bad and the skins are very cold," he said, standing barefoot in a brown puddle near huge wooden drums of water, chemicals and animal hides.

"The best thing is when all the other workers are absent and I get to rotate the machine by

myself. It gives me experience, and I trust myself to work alone," he said.

Poverty reminiscent of that recorded by Charles Dickens more than a century ago in Britain still produces generations of characters like Sayed throughout the Third World.

In the streets of Cairo, called "the mother of the world," children openly defy the law to work in bakeries, mechanics' workshops and factories. At traffic lights, cut but grubby faces peek into car windows proffering lemons, matches or a quick car wash.

"The scale of misery in Egypt must be much less than in some other countries," said Ahmed Abdullah, author of a study on children in the Egyptian leather-tanning industry.

"Even in the shanty towns, there is electricity and water. In

other parts of the world, there is not even that."

Repeated scenario

In part because working children are an insurance for their parents against bankruptcy in old age, poor Egyptians have big families. The scenario repeats itself with each new generation.

Working children aged six to 11 represented seven per cent of Egypt's total labour force in 1984, more than double the level a decade earlier, according to official figures.

Under Egyptian law, children should remain in school until they are 15 — but they can start working at 12.

"We don't want to stop them from working. They need the money and their families need the money," said Maisa Hamed, an official of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"We are emphasising protection, not eradication," she added.

Sociologists would like to ensure better wages, limited working hours and health care for working children.

Stimulating

Some psychologists argue that work, particularly when conducted in a family setting, sometimes provides a better education than Egypt's overcrowded schools.

"As far as UNICEF is concerned, we just don't want the kids to be exploited. Maybe the job is more stimulating for them than school, but there is evidence they face severe exploitation," said Hamed.

Most working children in Egypt labour in agriculture, part of a family tradition that dates back to the pharaohs. They are not protected by any legislation.

A ministerial committee, in cooperation with UNICEF, the International Labour Organisation and a local research centre, has been gathering information on child labour issues for more than a year.

Next year, they will draw up a five-year plan to create better opportunities and care services, Hamed said.

Meanwhile, the youngsters fend for themselves or depend on support from their families and communities.

Shaaban, a 16-year-old who has worked in a tannery since he was five, never went to school. But with the help of neighbours who created a centre to educate working children, he is now learning to read.

"I want to progress," Shaaban said, an arm around his 12-year-old brother Fatouha.

He raised his hands to show the height of his ambition.



Sekmet enthroned at Thebes, a woman from another Egypt



Mediterranean: The crunch has barely started

By Giles Merritt

CAIRO — The pyramids at Giza are crumbling, and chunks of stone have been falling from the Sphinx. Before the end of this century, pollution may have destroyed half of Egypt's fabulous antiquities. Car exhaust fumes are eating away at statues and tombs that have stood since the days of the pharaohs.

These ills are symptomatic of a disease ravaging the whole of the Mediterranean. The damage being done by tourism and economic development is threatening to outweigh the benefits. Last year one million tourists visited Egypt; by 1990 the number probably will quadruple. The poverty-stricken Egyptian economy badly needs the business, yet the tourism boom is helping to destroy the attractions that bring tourists.

On the Greek island of Rhodes last month, a meeting of tourism experts convened by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development heard how Mediterranean holiday resorts are fouling their own nests. They also assessed the millions of new jobs that tourists will bring, and agreed that the problem is urgent.

The Mediterranean is already the world's biggest tourist area, and the rush has barely started. Experts believe that from 100 million this year, the number of tourists in the area will reach 400 million a year by 2025, perhaps as many as 750 million.

That is alarming, but other aspects to the Mediterranean's outlook make the blood run cold. By 2025 the population of the countries around the Mediterranean will have exploded from the present 360 million to 550 million. The growth will be largely in North Africa and the Middle East; both Egypt and Turkey will have doubled in size to more than 100 million.

The strains will be appalling. The plagues of famine and pestilence that beset biblical Egypt could well return. Even if their present food output were to double by then, the southern Mediterranean countries will need to import \$30 billion worth

of food (at today's prices). Egypt, for instance, will have to spend twice as much on food as it does on oil.

And these figures may be optimistic: Soil erosion, deforestation and water shortages will be reducing the area of tillable land.

The Mediterranean's urban population, meanwhile, will have doubled from 200 million to 400 million.

The Mediterranean's pollution problems are only begun. At the moment, three-quarters of all pollution in the region comes from industries along the northern coast. By 2025 the picture will change. For instance, car ownership in the 17 countries bordering the Mediterranean will have tripled, to about 150 million.

Nine of every 10 vehicles in the region are now in France, Italy or Spain. The extra 100 million will go mainly to the southern and eastern countries, causing grave environmental damage.

Pollution levels in the cities of the southern Mediterranean are expected to double or even triple by 2025.

The ravages of pollution are already disastrous. The "greenhouse effect" is being blamed for Cairo's freak temperatures this summer of up to 48 degrees centigrade (118 degrees Fahrenheit), and scientists are warning of a 12-centimetre (4.5-inch) rise in the Mediterranean's level by 2025 that could flood not only the Nile delta but the deltas of the Rhone in France, the Po in Italy and the Ebro in Spain.

The risk is that in less than 40 years the poor southern countries may have descended into chaos, while pollution on the northern shores will have wrought irreversible damage.

What is being done to avert this? A brainstorming conference organised by the Aspen Institute Italia has met in Cairo to review the situation.

Deputy Prime Minister Gianni de Michelis of Italy is seeking a concerted regional approach on environmental and developmental issues by the 17 countries in the Mediterranean Action Plan. These governments have been digesting the details of the "Blue

Plan," a study prepared under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme from which most of the projections in this article are taken.

The scale of the problem is daunting that, nobody knows quite where to start. But experts note that an investment of \$6 billion in anti-pollution technology would have a major effect, while a 1 per cent surcharge on the sales of polluting companies would finance a dramatic cleanup.

Italy is anxious that the Mediterranean Action Plan should launch a major drive on these problems when its ministers meet again in October.

— International Herald Tribune.

He raised his hands to show the height of his ambition.

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Christmas flourishes in Asia

By Daniel Deane
Reuter

HONG KONG — A beardless Santa Claus bounces mystified Chinese children on skinny knees at a shopping mall in Hong Kong.

In Singapore, sweltering yuletide shoppers trot down the street in a motorised snow "sleigh,"

although temperatures are hovering around 30 Centigrade.

It's not snowing, Santa's not fat and it's not Christianity.

But it's still Christmas, and many Asians have caught the spirit of the season — whatever their reasons.

More and more Chinese people are celebrating Christmas, said a Hong Kong resident of more than 30 years.

"But it's more to do with commerce than religion."

Christians comprise only a small minority of Hong Kong's 5.6 million people, 97 per cent of whom are Chinese and adhere to Buddhism or Taoism.

But 150 years of British colonial rule — plus a shrewd nose for business — have combined to make Christmas a major festival.

Christmas lights and suspended reindeers compete with neon advertising signs to light up the colony's hotels and skyscrapers every year.

Commercial festival

Along the waterfront on Hong

Kong's Kowloon peninsula, a commercial complex owned by one of the colony's billionaires has erected a gigantic, moving nativity scene where baby Jesus waves his arms, the sheep wag their heads, and the three kings walk up to the cradle.

In Japan, Christmas is not a holiday. When it falls on a weekend, it is a regular business day. With only one per cent of the population Christians, Christmas has no religious significance.

That hasn't stopped the country's merchants, who have seized upon the occasion as a commercial opportunity.

A spokesman for Takashimaya, a major department store chain, said Hong Kong residents had doubled during the past five years, and sales this year were expected to be 20 per cent more than in 1987. Tokyo's Ginza shopping district is ablaze with gaudy Christmas lights.

Christmas & Islam

During the past decade, a growing number of young single Japanese women have exchanged small presents among close friends at Christmas. Some parents also give cheap trinkets to their children, although rarely to each other.

In Indonesia — the world's largest Muslim country — Christmas has become a popular public holiday.

Bahrain unveils clues to past

By Mariam Al Khalifa
Reuter

BAHRAIN — More than 5,000 years of history: on a Gulf island reputedly the site of the legendary garden of Eden joined Bahrain's celebrations for its national day Dec. 16.

Clues to the country's mysterious past, including a glimpse of what was once the world's largest cemetery, are gathered in its national museum opened by the Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Officials hope the spacious \$26.5 million complex will become a focal point for historical research and education and a forum for travelling exhibits.

Archaeologists say the palm-covered islands, made green by freshwater springs, were once the centre of the ancient Dilmun empire whose trade stretched from the Indus Valley in Pakistan to Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq.

Thousands of ancient burial mounds littered with skeletons and artefacts dropped or discarded by grave-robbers are all that remain of a flourishing civilisation.

Development has destroyed more than one third of 85,000

graves which once dotted Bahrain.

But several types of mounds spanning the period from 2800 B.C. to the start of the Muslim era in the seventh century A.D. have been reconstructed stone by stone in the museum hall of graves.

Many are complete with skeletons exactly as found, some lying on their side and others buried in large clay pots.

A study of the bones shows that Dilmun people lived longer than their contemporaries in other parts of the Middle East and were peaceful and well-cared for by other members of the society.

Jordanian link

Grave finds include Syrian glassware and bronze, Omani copper daggers, beads from the Indus Valley and pottery from Mesopotamia. Other artefacts show links with the Failaki civilisation in Kuwait, Baedha in Jordan, and ancient Egypt.

Another hall traces the history of the islands through models of settlements and temples, ancient inscriptions and round Dilmun seals, which first led archaeologists to suspect Bahrain's historic roots.

A plaque recalls that Dilmun is mentioned in one of the oldest-known written documents in the world, a stone tablet found in Mesopotamia and dating back to 3100 B.C.

Sumerian poems centuries later described Dilmun as a holy land blessed by Enki the god of sweet waters, and as the goal of Gilgamesh, a forerunner of the biblical Noah who searched for immortality.

Greek traders in the early fourth century A.D. renamed the island Tylos and the museum's third hall shows the cultural changes during this period.

The advent of Islam is vividly illustrated with ancient tablets and models of old mosques. Documents describe the island's history from the 18th century to modern times.

Other displays convey the life-cycle and customs of Bahrainis through photographs and mannequins in traditional garb, grouped around a life-sized courtyard.

In South Korea, however, residents said department stores were spending more and more money on fancy decorations and more homes were putting up Christmas trees.

Santa Claus, although not as common as in the West, is around — and recognised.

"He lives on the north pole, has a fat belly and a real big beard," said one Seoul receptionist.

"He comes down chimneys...

right."

The Four Seasons Hotel in Amman — that has a Kitchenette in every room.

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International

Critics see little GCC progress towards goal of economic unity

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) opens its annual summit here Monday with critics saying its progress toward its stated goal of economic unity has been painfully slow and may get slower as the threat from the Iran-Iraq war fades.

"The ceasefire could either make things easier, or it could remove the outside threat that got them together in the first place and slow efforts toward integration," said a diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of the GCC's most often-stated goals is a common market by 1990, a plan that GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara still thinks "borders on realism."

But informed sources here disagree. They say that the first step toward true financial integration should be some type of currency alignment, similar to the European Monetary System.

And while the GCC's finance ministers have said they are keen to implement such a system, some heads of state are cautious.

Oman, for example, is the least financially developed of the six countries, and is wary of programmes that may favour its more advanced neighbours.

The other members who formed the organisation in 1981 are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Bishara asked in a recent interview at GCC headquarters in Riyadh what the council's greatest achievements have been,

example, can now practise his profession or set up a business in neighbouring Saudi Arabia as if he were a resident. Travelling within the GCC has also become easier, resulting in increased tourism among the Gulf states.

But not all states have ratified all agreements, and businesses are not moving their firms across borders on any noted scale.

To boost industrial integration, the council created the Gulf Investment Corporation, a \$3 billion financial institution charged with financing joint projects among the GCC countries.

Currently, 30 projects are under way and several more are under consideration.

The Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy is also considering establishing a new joint investment company to encourage the private sector to play a larger role in development and to help repatriate approximately \$150 billion in foreign investment.

But with a Gulf war ceasefire now four months old, the council is under more pressure to turn its attention toward the home front.

The GCC has taken small steps. In 1983, it began implementing the unified economic agreement by eliminating customs duties on local products and on goods at least 40 per cent of whose value has added locally.

Oman, however, is permitted to continue imposing tariffs on some products in order to protect its growing industries.

Much of GCC policy that exists on paper does not exist in practice. A resident of Bahrain, for

citizens the right to purchase shares of Gulf companies in member states. There is talk, too, of a regional airline.

The GCC has also reaped the benefits of a collective approach in the international arena. Last June, for example, the Gulf countries signed a trade accord with the European Community (EC) committing both groups to granting one another "most favoured nation" status and encouraging technology transfer from the EC to the GCC through joint ventures.

The Arab countries had been hoping for a free trade agreement, with an eye toward opening markets for their burgeoning petrochemical industry. But diplomatic sources here said that the EC, protective of its own petrochemical industry, is unlikely to agree.

The United States and Japan are also expected to sign trade agreements with the GCC. Last month, Secretary of State George Shultz said that the U.S. was developing a proposal aimed at enhanced economic dialogue and improved trade and investment ties with the GCC. An agreement is expected sometime early next year.

Reagan to cut deficit by more than \$35b

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, blaming the Congress for spending more than the

government earns, said Saturday he would submit a budget next month that would cut the deficit by more than the \$35 billion mandated by law.

Reagan said that after leaving office on Jan. 20 he would campaign to fix what he called a budget system that lacked internal discipline and had gone out of control.

"The only way to reduce the deficit is by limiting the increase in spending and that's what my last budget will do," he said in his weekly radio address from the White House.

Reagan said his budget, due to be sent to Congress Jan. 9, would more than meet targets set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which calls for progressive deficit cuts leading to a balanced federal budget in fiscal 1993.

Under the law the deficit must be cut to about \$110 billion in fiscal 1990, which begins next October, from about \$145 billion in fiscal 1989, or else an automatic cut of \$35 billion, divided evenly between defence and domestic programmes, will take place in mid-October 1989.

Reagan said his budget projected \$80 billion in increased revenues without any new taxes.

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The rise in Third World debt will slow to three per cent this year from 11 per cent in 1987 but low economic growth in many debtor nations means that no end to the crisis is in sight, the World Bank said.

The bank, a Washington-based institution that lends money to developing countries, put Third World debt at \$1.3 trillion in its "Annual World Debt Tables."

It said failure to resolve the debt crisis, which has weakened governments in many debtor nations, could pose new risks for creditor nations to revise their tax laws to spur banks to write off debts.

The bank said that "an end to the debt crisis remains elusive".

A way had to be found to spur economic growth in debtor nations.

It might be necessary to rework the 1985 Baker plan, formulated by then U.S. treasury secretary James Baker, which proposed to ease the debt burden by a combination of new loans, write-offs and economic reform by debtor nations.

The World Bank said progress

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

GOIC urges new iron, steel strategy

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab governments must adopt a more realistic strategy to develop their iron and steel industries, a senior industrial official has said. Abdullah Hamad Al Moajil, head of the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), said it had asked its seven member states to meet early next year to draw up a 10-year development plan for the industry. Moajil, quoted by the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency, was speaking in Doha at a meeting of GOIC's technical and consultative committee for iron and steel industries. GOIC groups the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with Iraq. A \$300 million iron and steel pellet plant in Bahrain, the only one of its kind in the region, was shut for three years soon after it opened because of a lack of orders.

Dutch consider privatising museums

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch government is considering privatising all 16 national museums, the culture ministry has said. The privatisation plan was inspired by a recent government accounting office report, which severely criticised lax security and inefficient management throughout the national museum system, the ministry spokesman told the Associated Press. Under the plan, the ministry will investigate whether the museums' privatisation is viable and report on the issue to parliament next May, he said.

WFP expects higher need for food aid

ROME (R) — A record series of disasters strained U.N. food aid resources to the limit in 1988 and needs could be greater in 1989, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) has said. "This past year has strained the programme's resources to the limit and the forecast for 1989 is bleak," WFP head James Ingram said. The world's largest supplier of emergency food said in a statement it had helped 14.5 million people affected by wars or natural catastrophes in 31 countries this year. It estimated it had provided 820,000 tonnes of food, equal to 1987's record amount. Nearly 70 per cent of WFP emergency food went to 8.5 million refugees, particularly those fleeing conflicts in Afghanistan, the Gulf, Somalia, Ethiopia and Mozambique. WFP also helped survivors of floods in Sudan and Bangladesh and the hurricanes which devastated parts of Central America in October. "This year may well be remembered as the year of disasters. Never before in WFP's history did we have to respond to so many sudden calamities," Ingram said.

Indonesia to build large refineries

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia is planning two large refineries which it hopes will propel the country into the big league of oil-product exporters. A 250,000 barrel per day (b/d) export refinery, financed by Saudi Arabia and Japan, will be built at a cost of more than \$1 billion, a Pertamina refinery official who asked not to be named told Reuters. About 80 per cent of the crude will come from Saudi Arabia, and the remainder from Indonesia, he said. A second phase of the refinery will increase capacity to 500,000 b/d, making it the largest in the country. Pertamina earlier announced plans to build a \$700 million export-oriented refinery on Java with a capacity of 100,000 barrels a day. It is also expected to begin operation in 1992. A \$4 billion expansion of Indonesia's major

refineries completed in 1986 raised installed capacity to 900,000 b/d. Indonesia has eight operative refineries supplying all its domestic needs. Now it is ready to push into lucrative export markets, oil industry sources said.

Panel proposes firm to sell cement

DOHA (OPECNA) — A technical committee of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) has recommended the establishment of a special company for marketing Saudi Arabian cement in the Gulf region. The committee also asked GOIC to examine the feasibility of setting up a Gulf company to market surplus cement production outside the region. The committee also proposed a follow-up to a study prepared by the Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) on the production of thermal bricks used by the cement industry. The committee comprised experts from GOIC member countries Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

EC industrial subsidies total \$118b

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Community (EC) has said that EC governments are spending about 100 billion European Currency Units (\$118 billion) a year on subsidies to manufacturing industries and that this could damage the single market scheduled for 1993. Peter Sutherland, the EC commissioner for competition policy, said that the high level of state aid, which represented about three per cent of the EC's gross domestic product, "could not be sustained without damaging the (EC's) internal market." After Jan. 1, 1993, the European Common Market is scheduled to become a reality, with removal of all barriers to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. Sutherland called for "clear EC policies which are intended to ensure that economic operators are competitive and that they do not operate on the strength of exchequer funds (subsidies)." Sutherland said one of the most flagrant examples of an industry protected by government subsidies was air transport.

Arabics acquires Gulf oil concessions

DUBAI (OPECNA) — The Australian oil company Arabics has announced the acquisition of oil concessions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman and South Yemen. Arabics Director Ken Filos told the daily "Al Bayan" that the company, which was established earlier this year for oil exploration in the Arabian Peninsula, had started operations off the Omani coast in cooperation with the Australian oil company, PHB. PHB, he added, was Australia's largest coal, oil and steel exploration concern. He said it would take three months before oil was pumped in Oman, describing it as the biggest project in the Gulf region.

Japanese get record average bonuses

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top companies paid a record average year-end bonus of 652,901 yen (\$5,300) to each of their unionised workers, up 6.8 per cent from last year, the country's main employers group has said. Japanese workers normally get bonuses in June and December, each equivalent to two or more months wages. "The increase clearly reflects the sound performance of the Japanese economy supported by strong domestic demand," a spokesman for the Japanese Federation of Employers Associations said.

U.S. banks post record profits

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. commercial banks enjoyed record profits in the July-September quarter, but a top regulator has cautioned about an increase in bad loans and rising bank involvement in leveraged corporate buyouts.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) said the 13,239 federally insured commercial banks earned \$5.9 billion in profits in the third quarter, topping the previous record of \$5.8 billion in the same quarter last year.

"I think we can say without much question that this year will be an all-time high for banking profits," FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman told reporters.

The current record of \$18.1 billion was set in 1985. Last year, banks earned only \$3.6 billion, the least profitable year since the Depression, as they added heavily to reserves for losses on Third World Debt.

Banks earned \$16.4 billion for the first nine months of 1988, and several one-time factors should help boost profits for the full year above \$23 billion, the FDIC said.

When results are calculated for the entire year, a \$2.3 billion loss

Bad loans, on which borrowers have stopped making payments, jumped 4.3 per cent from the second quarter to \$76.5 billion in the third. Much of the increase came in the U.S. southwest, where the economy has been depressed by troubles in the oil industry.

Seidman noted that a substantial, but undetermined, share of bank income is coming from the boom in corporate buyouts.

Big Boy to make hamburgers in China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A fast-food company has reached a tentative agreement with the Chinese to build a factory in China that would produce 18 million hamburgers a year. Big Boy Co., a South Korean firm, has said the joint venture agreement calls for the factory to be built in Heilongjiang province in northeastern China. It would be the first South Korean fast-food supplier in China. Construction is scheduled to start in May, the company said.

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• Three bedrooms, two baths, living room, reception and dining room, kitchen and glassed-in veranda. Area 200 m².

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Semi-detached furnished flat, Shmeisani near Tyche Hotel, 2 bedrooms, modern ground floor flat, tel., central heating and parking & garden.

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Top Third World debtors

WASHINGTON (R) — The following is a list of the 17 biggest Third World debtors compiled by the World Bank. Debt owed to private banks is shown as a percentage of total debt. The average growth rate of the countries' gross domestic product (GDP), a measure of goods and services produced by an economy, between 1982 and 1988 is also included.

	Debt (Billion U.S. dollars)	Private source (percentage)	GDP (percentage)
Brazil	120.1	76.8	4.8
Mexico	100.0	78.1	0.2
Argentina	59.6	79.4	1.4
Venezuela	35.0	99.3	1.2
Nigeria	30.5	61.1	-0.3
Philippines	30.2	60.0	-0.1
Yugoslavia	22.1	61.9	1.0
Morocco	22.0	29.0	3.6
Chile	20.8	74.3	4.3
Peru	19.0	61.5	2.9</td

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Paris Saint-Germain back on top

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain went back to the top of the French first division Saturday just three days after losing the leadership to Auxerre. They beat Caen 1-0 away while Auxerre crashed 3-0 to Cannes. After soaking up a lot of first half pressure, Paris S-G went ahead when Argentine Gabriel Calderon converted a free kick in the 43rd minute.

Browndson stops Higson clean sweep

TORONTO (R) — British veteran Suki Browndson ended Canadian Alison Higson's bid for a sweep of breaststroke events with an impressive swim in the 100 metres Saturday to conclude the first world cup swimming meet. Browndson, 23, who has competed at three Olympics, fought off a late charge by the Commonwealth record holder to win in one minute 9.06 seconds.

Damiani knocks out Jassmann

SASSARI (AP) — Italy's Francesco Damiani retained his European heavyweight crown and his undefeated record Saturday night by knocking out West German challenger Manfred Jassmann in the third round of their title fight. The 30-year-old Italian, who hopes to fight Mike Tyson for the world title next summer, sent his opponent to the canvas for a count of 10 with a powerful left hook to the abdomen.

Saudis retain Asia Cup

DOHA (AP) — Saudi Arabia won the 9th Asia Soccer Championship Sunday by beating South Korea 4-3 in a dramatic penalty-kick showdown.

The Saudis, who first won the championship in 1984, played the South Koreans to a goalless draw before a packed stadium in Doha.

The game went into a half-hour of extra time, but neither side could score. The match was decided with a penalty-kick off.

Thousands of Saudi fans went



Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al Thani presents the 9th Asia Soccer Championship Cup to the captain of Saudi Arabia, which beat South Korea 4-3 in a penalty-kick showdown in Doha, Qatar, Sunday.

wild as the winning ball hit the net.

The game was watched by Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al Thani.

Iran took third place with three scores from penalty kicks in the semifinal against China Saturday.

Bridgestone Autotests March 31
Rothmans Jordan Rally May 17-19
Hill Climb June 15
Bridgestone Autotests July 7
Danish Rally National Rally Aug. 4
Hill Climb Sept. 1
Bridgestone Autotests Oct. 6
National Rally Nov. 3
Bridgestone Autotests Nov. 25

results of the 1988 national championships. His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah won the open drivers championship and the group "A" champion was Sharif Jamil ben Nasser. Ali Bibeis clinched the co-drivers category.

National Motoring Calendar

National Rally March 17

Foreign drivers to race in Jordan hill climbs

AMMAN (J.T.) — At its meeting Thursday the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan motor sports committee, chaired by Dr. J. Ledger, approved the 1989 list of events that will be organised in the Kingdom. In addition to the Rothmans Jordan Rally scheduled for 17-18-19 May there will be two international Hill Climbs which will take place at Tell Rumman. The acceptance by FISA, governing body of motor sport, for the hill climbs is included as full international events means that for the first time for twenty years foreign drivers can compete. There will be three one day national rallies, also series of four auto tests which will have its own mini-championship in addition to the individual event results.

MAZATLAN (R) — Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union won the first world active chess championship here Saturday, defeating his compatriot Victor Gavrikov on a technical decision.

Karpov, was held to a five-point tie by his underdog opponent and the title was decided by the Buchholz procedure. Under this system, Karpov won because his opponents in earlier rounds were ranked higher than those faced by Gavrikov.

Karpov said afterwards the final had been very tough, against an opponent considered a master of the limited-period active chess style.

When play began Saturday, the two players were tied at two points apiece after four games played Friday. After the regulation eight games they were still deadlocked at four all.

In an exciting two-match play-off, white won each time with aggressive strategy and the players were tied at five points.

Karpov, 37, shared the \$80,000 prize money with Gavrikov, 25.

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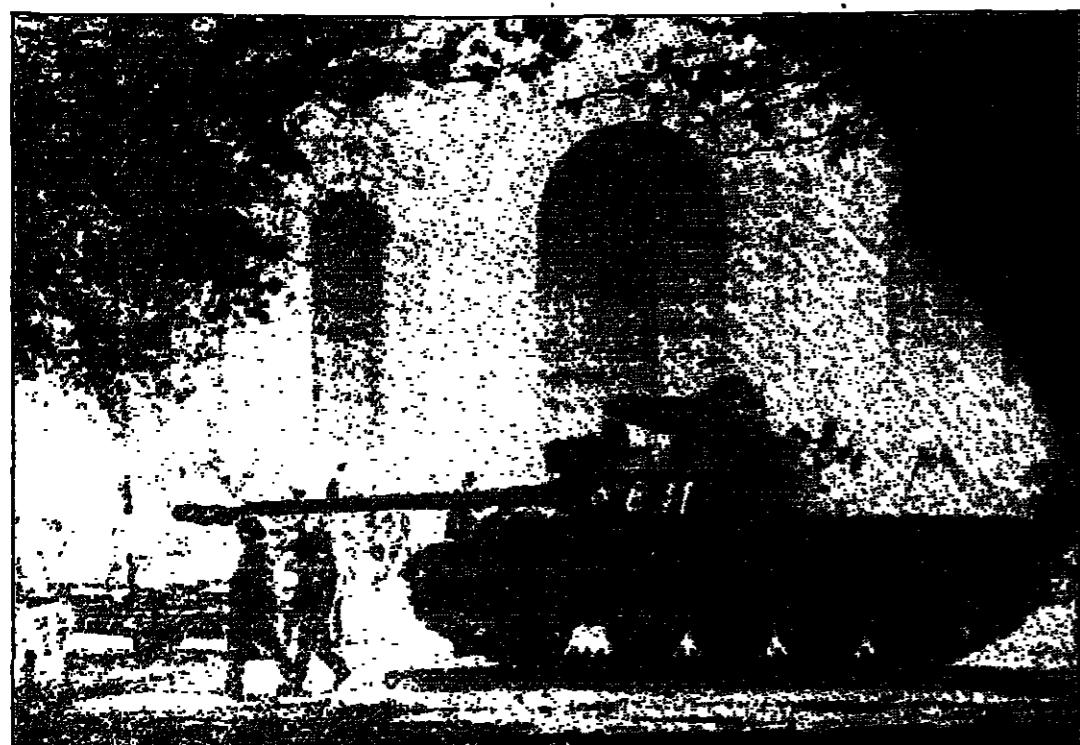
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A Soviet army tank at an intersection in central Yerevan as a curfew and a state of emergency continued in the Armenian capital.

Quake fails to bury Soviet ethnic dispute

YEREVAN, USSR (AP) — Tanks and soldiers that could be used for earthquake relief instead patrol Armenia's capital, showing that Moscow believes a show of force still is needed to keep a lid on nationalistic unrest.

Already, dozens of Armenian activists have been jailed for alleged curfew violations. Other activists say, however, the real reason for the arrest has been their continued political agitation.

It was the activists' heated campaign for Armenia to annex Nagorno-Karabakh, the heavily Armenian-populated district of neighbouring Azerbaijan, that riveted the world's attention for most of the year.

But Dec. 7 an earthquake killed an estimated 55,000 people in northwestern Armenia. The tragedy then became the focus of the Armenian nation of 3.4 million people.

But the activists have not given up, and despite the government's avowed policy of "glasnost," or openness, it has launched a crackdown against them.

Three days after the quake, while Soviet President Mikhail S.

Gorbachev was visiting Armenia to check on disaster relief, five leaders of the Karabakh Committee were arrested. Another leader was arrested later, and the other two are reported in hiding.

The unsanctioned group has spearheaded the annexation campaign, which has led to bloodshed between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The Kremlin has refused to turn Nagorno-Karabakh over to Armenia.

During a visit to Yerevan, Gorbachev blasted the committee, calling its members "pro-vocateurs" trying to take advantage of the instability created by the earthquake to gain power.

"They must be stopped," he said.

The Armenian Communist Party newspaper, *Kommunist*, accused the activists of hurting earthquake relief efforts.

From a snug headquarters, the committee contacts hospitals with incompetent instructions, disseminates wild rumours and sends spurious data to the public's health ministry, thus hampering the effort to organise effective medical aid to quake

victims," TASS, the official Soviet news agency, summarised from *Kommunist*.

Some Armenians agree with some of the government criticism. Larisa Gishyan, 36, said the Nagorno-Karabakh issue must remain a priority but that it "shouldn't be brought up during mourning."

But the activists believe the Karabakh issue must not be put aside for anything.

"If a person dies in your home, you still must eat, breathe," said Ruzan Gorgisyan, whose husband Mofses, an Armenian nationalist, was arrested Nov. 27 and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

A Politburo commission overseeing earthquake relief said Saturday that Karabakh Committee members were making "inflammatory talks" and handing out leaflets calling for demonstrations and strikes, TASS said.

Meanwhile, the activists' anger is increasingly directed at Gorbachev. They say he was heckled and sworn at during his visit to the disaster area because of his handling of the Karabakh issue, but those reports could not be independently confirmed.

At least 24 killed in 24 hours despite boosted security

Violence pandemic in Sri Lanka on eve of presidential elections

COLOMBO (AP) — Gunmen stormed into the home of a prominent opposition politician who once belonged to the governing party and killed five people Sunday, the eve of presidential elections, police said.

They were among 24 people slain in the past 24 hours in political and ethnic violence, police and military officials said.

Seven other people were critically wounded in the attack at the home of Fernando in Panadura, 15 kilometres south of Colombo, according to police, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Fernando escaped injury but was hospitalised for shock. Panadura police blamed the attack on the People's Liberation Front, a group of Sinhalese extremists that was vowed to stop Monday's election. But they offered no proof for this theory.

Fernando, a Sinhalese, formerly belonged to President Junius R. Jayewardene's United National Party (UNP) but left it to work for the Sri Lanka Freedom Party headed by presidential candidate and former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

In the tangled web of sectarian and political violence, normal life

has all but ceased on this tropical island once famed only for idyllic tourist retreats, magnificent gems and some of the world's finest tea plantations.

"It has come to the stage when Sri Lankans cannot even leave their homes in safety, let alone going to other parts of the country," Bandaranaike said in one of her last campaign speeches.

Armoured cars rumbled through the capital Sunday as soldiers and police sought to stop killings and impose calm for Monday's voting.

The presidential election has been preceded by waves of killings, abductions and attacks on campaign rallies in escalating violence that grew out of ethnic conflicts between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority.

But he bloodshed that has claimed more than 9,000 lives in the past five years is no longer a clearly defined conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils.

Sinhalese are killing fellow Sinhalese, rival Tamil factions clash with each other, the tiny Muslim minority has been targeted by Tamils, and Indian peacekeeping forces have been trying for nearly 17 months to contain and disarm the most belligerent Tamil separatists.

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Bandaranaike, widow of Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike who was assassinated in 1959, is the chief opposition candidate in Monday's election.

Jayewardene is barred by the constitution from seeking a third term as president but has fielded his prime minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, as the candidate of his UNP.

The third candidate, Ossie Abeygunsekera, represents four small leftist parties under the coalition banner of the United Socialist Alliance.

All campaigning was supposed to have halted at midnight Friday under election rules, but anti-Premadasa posters were plastered on walls before dawn Sunday.

COLUMN 10

Unusual Christmas presents

RADCLIFF, Kentucky (AP) — Looking for that unusual Christmas present? How about a time-bomb alarm clock for just \$14.95 or a knife concealed in a lipstick container? It's Christmas time at the U.S. Cavalry Store in Radcliff, where a nativity scene in the window shares space with examples of one of the world's largest varieties of military products available in one place.

Company President Randy Acton said the selection has attracted customers as varied as singer Michael Jackson, who ordered the knife concealed in a lipstick container, and Panamanian General Manuel Noriega, who has called on the company for his personal uniforms and underwear.

Acton said the company had sales topping \$10 million last year. Camouflage is, indeed, the design of choice at U.S. cavalry. It is on computer covers, duct tape, toilet paper, pen-and-pencil sets and, of course, canteens, cots, goggles, gloves, hats, holsters, jackets, tarps and sleeping bags.

How to make a nude statue respectable?

LOVELAND, Colorado (AP) — How do you make a nude statue respectable? Stand it against a wall, according to the Loveland Visual Arts Commission.

Christian Meindersma, 26, told reporters after the incident police had fired without warning. Authorities subsequently accused Meindersma of illegally bringing a copy of a banned book by the exiled Dalai Lama into China.

Tibetan students in Peking are regarded as a special cadre destined for leading jobs in the Chinese administration of the backward region on their return.

Peking says Tibet has been part of China for hundreds of years, but many Tibetans regard it as a separate country and China's 1950 occupation as an invasion.

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Court rules in favour of Fonda

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. appeals court has ruled in favour of actress Jane Fonda in a lawsuit by her former business manager, who said he was entitled to 10 per cent of her earnings from the movie "Coming Home."

Sokomanu, Sope's uncle, had attempted to dissolve parliament

Friday, a move that Lini refused to accept. He said Sokomanu had exceeded his authority and that the decision was unconstitutional.

Lini, who has governed since independence in 1980, maintained he was the legal prime minister.

Radio reports in Sydney, Australia, said that besides Sope, a cabinet minister whom Lini fired earlier this year during a power struggle, his chauffeur and secretary were among those arrested by security forces loyal to Lini.

Sokomanu voiced fears he also would be detained, according to reports from diplomats, local radio and the AAP.

"If they do not take me, I will try to get Mr. Sope and the rest of them out of jail tomorrow," he said.

Australia responded by saying it only recognised the Lini government.

Tibetan students march in Peking

PEKING (R) — Sixty Tibetan students marched on Peking's Tiananmen Square and the compound housing China's top leadership Sunday in protest at police killings of demonstrators in Tibet.

The unprecedented protest was in defiance of a two-year-old ban on unauthorised demonstrations in Peking which specifically outlawed marches on Tiananmen Square or outside the heavily guarded Zhongnauhai compound where Deng Xiaoping and other senior leaders live.

The ban was imposed to quell pro-democracy rallies by thousands of students in 1986.

Officials from the Peking Nationalities Institute mingled with the marchers and tried to persuade them to return to the

college. Police did not appear to arrest any demonstrators.

Seth Faison, Peking correspondent for Hong Kong's South China Morning Post, said he was taken away by police when he talked to students, who said they were protesting at "the killing of our people."

Faison said he was accused of obstructing traffic, standing on a public lawn and ignoring police orders but was released after two hours.

"I did nothing incompatible with my job as a journalist and accept none of the accusations," Faison said.

Faison quoted marchers as saying they believed 12 Tibetans were killed in the protest in Lhasa

about 30 Buddhist monks eight days ago. China's official media said one was killed but Western witnesses put the death toll higher.

The protesters, elite students from the Himalayan region to study in Peking, said they were demanding protection of human rights in Tibet and described China's rule there as an "invasion," a Western eyewitness said.

Police followed the marchers, who came from a special college for ethnic minorities in northwest Peking, and briefly detained a foreign reporter who tried to speak to them.

Police in Lhasa opened fire on an anti-Chinese demonstration by

Vanuatu in turmoil; new premier held

PORT VILLA, Vanuatu (AP) — Barak Sope was arrested Sunday, hours after being sworn in as prime minister while a dispute raged over who governs this troubled Pacific nation, Australian news organisations reported.

Sope, 37, was arrested by security forces loyal to Walter Lini, the elected prime minister, said an Australian Associated Press (AAP) dispatch. Lini had been dismissed earlier by President George Sokomanu but refused to step down, challenging Sokomanu's constitutional role.

At least three other people were arrested.

"They came in without a warrant and told Mr. Sope that he was under arrest," the president said, according to AAP. "They (para-

military forces) were in full combat gear. Some were carrying machine guns, others had rifles."

Earlier Sunday, Sokomanu appointed a five-member interim government which he claimed would rule Vanuatu until national elections in February.

The move follows his disputed dissolution of the country's parliament Friday and his dismissal of Lini, the father of independence of what was formerly the Anglo-French New Hebrides.

Vanuatu's political crisis deepened earlier Sunday with the appointment of Sope. The move resulted in the country having two governments each claiming the right to govern.

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Friday, a move that Lini refused to accept. He said Sokomanu had exceeded his authority and that the decision was unconstitutional.

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Soviets reform weary, says Gorbachev aide

MOSCOW (AP) — Politburo member Alexander N. Yakovlev said remarks published Saturday that despite more than three years of reform, Soviets still are afraid of democracy and openness.

"We talk about political transformations, but how difficult it is to part with the old power to which we are accustomed," Yakovlev said in remarks in the Ural mountain city of Perm.

"We still cannot imagine that genuine people's power will be simpler, more reliable and, of course, more responsible. Democracy, glasnost, and differences of opinion still frighten us, as if

every one of us constantly lives in agreement with himself and always thinks in comfortable cliches," Yakovlev said.

"Can you really call a person a person if he doesn't have his own opinions?" he said.

His remarks to regional party officials were published Saturday by the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Yakovlev is regarded as a theoretician of Gorbachev's reforms and the closest adviser to the Soviet president on the Communist Party Politburo.

Cooperatives, Yakovlev said, will help "decide the important

— to take away deadly equalising

— to level off the practice of giving people the same pay regardless of

the quality of the works they do.

Gorbachev has encouraged the practice of paying more for better work in an effort to get Soviets to work harder and produce better goods.

Yakovlev said that tendency can be attacked through the cooperative movement that allows Soviets working privately to provide goods and services scarce in the state-run economy without adhering to the official price and wage structure.

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— to level off the practice of giving people the same pay regardless of

the quality of the works they do.

Socialism is a utopia; without it society, a person is alienated from property and power."

Speaking of the new government structure approved last month, Yakovlev said it will have to earn the respect of Soviet citizens.

At a meeting at the end of November the Supreme Soviet parliament approved Gorbachev's plan for a New Congress of People's Deputies that will include members selected from the Communist Party, trade unions and other organisations. It in turn will choose a smaller, more active Supreme Soviet.

Police, army shoot it out in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African soldiers shot and killed two policemen and a civilian informer in a mixup over a reported arms cache in Soweto, police said Sunday. Lieutenant Robbie Olivier confirmed press reports giving the first details of the midnight gunbattle in Johannesburg's black township complex.

He said police and soldiers, who share responsibility for policing townships, learned separately that guns had been hidden in a house in the white city section of Soweto. Soldiers broke in and set a trap for the owner of the house while police sent a five-man unit, accompanied by a civilian informer, to investigate the report.

"The policemen were shot at when they arrived," he said.

"Two black policemen were killed and a third was wounded."

The civilian, also a black man, was also killed," Olivier said.

The police never had a chance to shoot back, but witnesses quoted in several Sunday newspapers said the two sides exchanged fire for up to 30 minutes.

Philippine boat sinks; 51 missing

MANILA (R) — Fifty-one people are missing after a small ferry boat sank in central Philippines, the local military command reported Sunday. It said two passengers who swam for seven hours were rescued by a passing vessel after the sinking